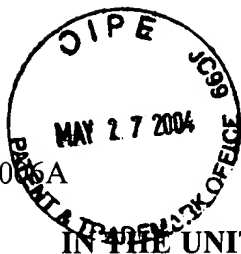


AXIAMD.006A

PATENT



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Cragg et al.
Appl. No. : 09/782,534
Filed : February 13, 2001
For : APPARATUS FOR
PERFORMING A DISCECTOMY
THROUGH A TRANS-SACRAL
AXIAL BORE WITHIN THE
VERTEBRAE OF THE SPINE
Examiner : Kathryn Odland
Group Art Unit : 3743

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO THE OFFICE ACTION DATED JANUARY 23, 2004

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed January 23, 2004. Applicant respectfully submits the following remarks regarding the above captioned application.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 12 of this paper.

05/28/2004 HMEKDNEN 00000079 09782534

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